

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30037 / S1027

This is one of a series of bills the Supreme Court has recommended in its annual report to the Governor concerning defects or omissions in the laws, as required by article V, section 25 of the Idaho Constitution. When a witness or party to a court case cannot hear or speak, or when they do not understand or speak English, I.C. § 9-205 requires the court to appoint a qualified interpreter for that person. This statute also requires the court to have the interpreter served with a subpoena. A subpoena is an order requiring a person to attend court, and a subpoena is not necessary for every interpreter appointed. Therefore, this bill seeks to grant the court the discretion to have subpoenas issued to interpreters only when appropriate. Specifically, this proposal will amend I.C. § 9-205 so that a court may issue a subpoena to an interpreter, but no longer unnecessarily requires a subpoena to be served upon every appointed interpreter.

FISCAL NOTE

This proposed amendment will have no fiscal impact upon the General Fund, any other state fund, or local governments. The proposed amendment will grant courts discretion to decide whether an interpreter should be issued a subpoena, and it will cause neither an increase nor decrease in existing or future appropriations or revenues.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).